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APPLICATION NO.	FIL.	ING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.	
09/973,767	09/973,767 10/11/2001		Hideaki Watanabe	1566.1004	7559	
21171	7590	12/16/2002				
STAAS &			EXAMINER			
700 11TH S SUITE 500	TREET, NV	V	WELLS, KENNETH B			
WASHINGTON, DC 20001				ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
			2816			
				DATE MAILED: 12/16/2002		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Application No. 084973.767	<u>~</u>			$\overline{}$	The					
Examiner Art Unit Ze16		Application N	o. (plicant(s)						
Period for Reply A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address Period for Reply A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION	•	09/973,767		WATANABE ET A	AL.					
Period for Reply A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. Formation of some may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In so event however, may a reply be timely filed after 51k (6) MONTH(S) from the mailing date of this communication. If the period for reply specified dever is less than they (5) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thin; (50) days, and incredible of the scheme of the period for reply supplied deversed in the provision of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In so event however, may a reply be timely filed after 51k (6) MONTH(F) from the simulation of the period of the period for reply supplied and value and the statutory minimum of thin; (50) days, and incredible of the scheme of the period of the period for reply with the statutory minimum of thin; (50) days are under 51k (6) MONTH(f) from the similing date of this communication. Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply with the supplication to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office and the supplication to be communication. Even if timely filed, may reduce any example and an accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213. Disposition of Claims 4) Claim(s)	Office Action Summary	Examiner		Art Unit						
A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>1</u> MONTH(S) FROM THE MALLING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. Extensions of hom may be avoitable under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.18(a), in no event, nowever, may a reply be timely filed discussions of hom may be avoitable under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.18(b), in no event nowever, may a reply be timely filed discussion of home may be avoitable under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.18(a), in no event nowever, may a reply be timely filed discussion of his may be avoitable under the provision of th		Kenneth B. We	lls	2816						
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. - Extrascions drime may be variable under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.38(a). In no event, however, may a reply be limely filed after SIX (6) MONTH'S from the mailing date of this communication. - If the provision of the may be sended above is less flam thirty (20) days, a reply within the entropy minimum of thirty (20) days, a reply within the entropy minimum of thirty (20) days, a reply within the entropy minimum of thirty (20) days, a reply within the entropy minimum of thirty (20) days, a reply within the set or extended above is less flam thirty (20) days, a reply within the entropy minimum of thirty (20) days, a reply within the entropy minimum of thirty (20) days, a reply within the entropy minimum of thirty (20) days, and the entropy minimum of thirty (20) days, a reply within the entropy minimum of thirty (20) days, a reply within the entropy minimum of thirty (20) days, and the entropy minimum of thirty (20) days are provided by the Citical Control of the communication. - Partition of the entropy minimum of the en		appears on the cov	er sheet with the co	orrespondence ad	ldress					
2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final. 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213. Disposition of Claims 4) Claim(s) 1-38 is/are pending in the application. 4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdrawn from consideration. 5) Claim(s) is/are allowed. 6) Claim(s) is/are objected to. 7) Claim(s) is/are objected to. 8) Claim(s) 1-38 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement. Application Papers 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner. 10) The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner. If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action. 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 and 120 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). a) All b) Some * c) None of: 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received. 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received. 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).	A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. - Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely. - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). - Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).									
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Attachment(s)										
1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) 6) Other:	Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5)	Notice of Informal Pa							

Application/Control Number: 09/973,767

Art Unit: 2816

- 1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
 - I. Claims 1-18, drawn to a differential output circuit, classified in class 327, subclass 108.
 - II. Claims 19-38, drawn to a signal detection device, classified in class 327, subclass 50.

Inventions II and I are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because the claimed signal detection device may be patentable by itself without the details of the differential output circuit (note the evidence claims in group II). The subcombination has separate utility such as for use in any IC where a differential output signal is needed or desired.

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kenneth B.

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Wells whose telephone number is 703-308-4809. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 7:30am to 4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Timothy P. Callahan, can be reached at 703-308-4876. The fax phone numbers for TC2800 are 703-872-9318 (before final) and 703-872-9319 (after final).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.

Kenneth B. Wells Primary Examiner Art Unit 2816

December 16, 2002